

Washington, D.C. -- Working to help keep our communities safe and secure, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) today announced that an important provision from her bi-partisan “Bullying Prevention for School Safety and Crime Reduction Act of 2003” (H.R.3692), was included in the Department of Justice Reauthorization Bill (H.R. 3036) which passed the U.S. House of Representatives today. The section of Sánchez’ bi-partisan bill included in H.R. 3036 will expand the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant fund to encompass bullying programs.

“I am pleased the DOJ Reauthorization bill which funds law enforcement and community safety programs through 2006 was passed today with bi-partisan support. This bill will help communities prevent, reduce, and control crime, provide assistance to the victims of crime, improve law enforcement training facilities, and make the DOJ's grants programs more efficient,” said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

Included in the DOJ bill is “The Juvenile Accountability Block Grant” program designed to provide grants to states for programs promoting greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. Currently, these grants are NOT designated for bullying prevention programs. Congresswoman Sanchez’ provision amends the law to allow states and localities to use grant funds for bullying prevention programs.

“Bullying is a growing problem that can lead to violence and gang activities. The provision I’ve included in the DOJ Reauthorization bill will help local schools gain access to federal funding to implement proven, research-based bullying prevention programs,” said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

“It’s critical that we take active steps to make schools safer and reduce crime. With this federal funding, schools will have the resources to implement bullying prevention programs to help create a safe environment for our children, where they can learn and succeed without fear, hurt or intimidation,” explained Sánchez.

Sánchez legislation has the support of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a bipartisan, non-profit organization of police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and crime victims dedicated to preventing crime and violence by finding ways to prevent kids from becoming criminals. The group recently completed a study titled, “Bullying Prevention Is Crime Prevention,” that found children who are the victims of bullying are more likely to commit suicide, and bullies are more likely to become criminals as adults.